

BOROUGH OF BLANDFORD FORUM

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

YEAR - 1955



Public Health Department,
Civic Centre,
Wimborne.

TO:-

His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Blandford.

The Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances
of the Borough is submitted for your consideration and information.
The Report is presented as follows:-

- A. Statistics.
- B. General provisions of Health Services in the Area.
- C. Sanitary circumstances of the area:-
 - 1. Water.
 - 2. Sewerage.
 - 3. Rodent Control.
- D. Factories and Workshops.
- E. Slaughter House.
- F. Inspection and Supervision of Food.
- G. Prevalence of Infectious Diseases.

Much of the routine sanitary work of the Public Health
Department has not been carried out, nor can be, until the department
is adequately staffed.

I have much appreciated the help and co-operation given to me
by my professional colleagues in practice in the Borough.

In conclusion, I wish to thank members of the Council and other
Council officials who have extended to me courtesy and assistance.

J.B.M. Mayes.

JULY, 1956.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1955
BOROUGH OF BLANDFORD FORUM

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR

Alderman B.C. Hunt.

ALDERMEN:-

Alderman J.L. Carter.
Alderman Miss E.G. Castleman-Smith
Alderman D.S. Cuff.

COUNCILLORS:-

Mrs. E.M. Biddulph.

T.W. Fowler.

D. Gent.

P. Greenfield.

G.R.J. Haskett.

R.J.W. King.

A. Powis.

E.G. Riggs.

J. Trickett.

Miss A.A. Williams.

F. Wyatt.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH (Part Time)

J.B.M. Mayes. M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H

SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR

W.E. Ramm. M.R. San. I. M.S.I.A. R.P.

VETERINARY SURGEONS

Major F. Beckett, F.R.C.V.S., and his Staff (acting as
Meat Inspectors)

SECTION A

GENERAL STATISTICS

1. Area of the Borough..... 253 acres.
 2. Population as estimated by Registrar General.....3,490
(30.6.55)
 3. Total number of inhabited houses at 31/12/55.....1,493
 4. Rateable value as at 1st April, 1955.....£20,977
 5. Sum represented by penny rate at 1st April, 1955. £ 113.11.0
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SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS
for the year, 1955

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Total registered.....	60	34	34
Legitimate.....	66	33	33
Illegitimate.....	2	1	1

STILLBIRTHS

Total registered..... Legitimate.....	4	3	1
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DEATHS

Total registered.....	60	34	26
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INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths of infants under one year of age.

Total registered..... Legitimate.....	3	2	1
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COMPARATIVE STATISTICS.Blandford England and
Wales.
15

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated home population.	19.48	
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated home population using comparability factor.....	19.48	
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total (live and still births).....	55.56	23.1
Death rate per 1,000 estimated home population.....	17.19	11.7
Death rate per 1,000 estimated home population using comparability factor.....	13.24	
Death rate of infants under one year of age per 1,000 related live births.....	46.88	24.9

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1955

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung.....	1	0	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus.....	-	1	1
Other malignant neoplasms.....	1	4	5
Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	5	1	6
Coronary disease.....	7	1	8
Other heart disease.....	10	7	17
Other circulatory diseases.....	2	-	2
Influenza.....	0	1	1
Pneumonia.....	1	3	4
Bronchitis.....	0	3	3
Other diseases of respiratory system.....	1	0	1
Congenital malformations.....	2	-	2
Other diseases.....	1	2	3
Motor vehicle accidents.....	-	1	1
All other accidents.....	1	-	1
Suicide.....	1	1	2

COMMENTS ON VITAL
STATISTICS

The Birth Rate for 1955 has risen. 19.48 in 1955, 18.51 in 1954, 15.49 in 1953, 14.30 in 1952 and 18.84 in 1951.

The number of births exceed the number of deaths by 8. 4 stillbirths have been recorded.

The crude Birth Rate was 19.48 per 1,000 estimated home population. By applying the Comparability Factor of 1.00, the standardised Birth Rate remained at 19.48.

60 persons died in 1955, of these 42 were over the age of 70 years. The crude Death Rate was 17.19 per 1,000 estimated home population. By applying the Comparability Factor of 0.77, the standardised Death Rate was 13.24. This is more than the Death Rate in England and Wales, 1954 and Blandford in 1954.

The Comparability Factor is worked out for each district by the Registrar General. The purpose of this factor is to level out the differences in the age and sex constitution of the population of the various districts, and enable more accurate comparisons to be made of birth and death rates in other areas.

There have been no deaths from diphtheria, whooping cough, meningococcal infections, measles, scarlet fever, nor from poliomyelitis. There were no maternal deaths.

SECTION B
GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

The Public Health Laboratory service at Dorchester continues to give the district generous service. The Laboratory undertakes the bacteriological examination of water, milk, ice cream and other foods. It also examines specimens for diagnosis in the case of infectious or suspected infectious diseases.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The Ambulance Service of the district is under the jurisdiction of the Dorset County Council, operating day and night from Castleman House. This service also covers the Rural District.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

The Dorset County Council provide an ante-natal clinic and an Infant Welfare Centre once a fortnight. These are held in the Congregational Hall.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

The Dorset County Council have provided a service in Blandford and the surrounding district, which has proved satisfactory.

SECTION C
SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.
WATER.

The water is supplied by the Blandford Water Undertaking owned by the Council. The two sources of water are at Black Lane and Blandford St. Mary. The former, a borehole, together with a group of "shallow wells" and adits, and the latter a "shallow well" with an adit. The depth of the borehole is 100 feet. The lowest standing water level in the abstraction year was 42 feet in October, and in the shallow wells, 6 feet 6 inches. The installation of an emergency supply from Blandford Camp as proposed by the Council would be an excellent standby.

The total amount of water pumped during the water abstraction year was 132,307,181 gallons. The water abstraction year runs from 1st November 1954 to the 31st October 1955.

During the year, three new premises in the town were connected to the mains and 53 in the rural district.

189 houses are supplied with standpipes, the remainder have water inside the premises.

During the year 114 water samples have been taken from either the source or from various points in the distribution system and submitted for bacteriological examination. Of these 111 proved satisfactory, three suspicious, but only one contained faecal organisms and this sample was taken from untreated water.

Samples of water for chemical analysis have also been submitted to the Public Analyst.

The following are copies of the Analyst's Reports:-

Blandford St. Mary Pumping Station

15/11/55

I hereby certify that I have examined the above mentioned sample with the following results:- (expressed as parts per million)

Ammonia, Free.....	0.030
Ammonia, Albuminoid.....	0.090
Nitrites.....	Nil
Nitrates, as Nitric Nitrogen.....	4.19
Oxygen absorbed in 15 mins. at 80 deg.F.....	0.106
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80 deg.F.....	0.608
Chlorine.....	21.0
as Sodium Chloride.....	34.60
Hardness temporary.....	210.0
Hardness permanent.....	25.0
total.....	235.0
Total solids.....	388.0
pH value.....	7.4
Metals: Iron, zinc, copper, lead absent.	
Appearance: Colourless and clear.	
Odour: none.	
Free Chlorine.	

Remarks:- This is a clear, bright water, containing some, but not an undue amount of organic matter. It is hard in character, but the majority of the hardness is of a temporary nature. The results give no indication of pollution, and in my opinion the water is very suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

(Signed) Arthur S. Carlos.

Public Analyst.

Black Lane Pumping Station - Borehole.

I hereby certify that I have examined the above mentioned sample with the following results:- (expressed as parts per million)

Ammonia, free.....	0.060
Ammonia, Albuminoid.....	0.110
Nitrites.....	Nil
Nitrates as Nitric Nitrogen.....	4.33
Oxygen absorbed in 15 mins at 80 def. F.....	0.078
" " " 4 hours " " "	0.390
Chlorine.....	25.0
as Sodium Chloride.....	41.20
Hardness, temporary.....	207.5
permanent.....	15.0
total.....	222.5
Total solids.....	311.0
pH value.....	7.3
Metals: Iron, zinc, copper, lead absent.	

Black Lane Pumping Station - borehole (Contd)

Appearance :- colourless and clean.

Odour:-- None.

Free Chlorine.

Remarks:- This is a clear, bright water, hard in character. It contains some, but not an undue amount of organic matter.

The above figures show no sign of pollution, and in my opinion the water is very suitable for both drinking and domestic purposes:

(Signed) Arthur S. Carlos. B. Sc(Lond)
Public Analyst.

Black Lane Pumping Station - Shallow Well

15/11/55

I hereby certify that I have examined the above mentioned sample with the following results: (Expressed as parts per million)

Ammonia, free.....	0.040
Albuminoid.....	0.080
Nitrites.....	Nil
Nitrates, as Nitric Nitrogen.....	3.71
Oxygen absorbed in 15 mins at 80 deg. F.....	0.053
" " " 4 hours " ".....	0.412
Chlorine.....	21.0
as Sodium Chloride.....	34.60
Hardness, temporary.....	207.5.
permanent.....	15.0
total.....	222.5
Total solids.....	317.0
pH value.....	7.3
Metals: Copper, lead, zinc, iron absent.	
Appearance: Colourless and clear.	

Odour: none

Free Chlorine:-

Remarks:- This is a clear bright water of good organic purity.

It is hard in character, but the majority of the hardness is of temporary nature and would be removed by boiling.

The water shows no sign of pollution, and in my opinion is eminently suitable for both drinking and domestic purposes.

(Signed) Arthur S. Carlos. B. Sc.(Lond)
Public Analyst.

SWIMMING BATHS

The baths were opened from the 29th April to the 30th September. Frequent tests for chlorine content were taken by the attendant. 12 samples of bath water were taken from the Swimming Baths for bacteriological examination. All samples proved satisfactory.

The defect in the bath bottom is increasing and a sample taken of the ground water entering the bath through the hole was examined bacteriologically and found unsatisfactory. Extra chlorine was added to the bath water to maintain the required standard of purity. Before the baths are re-opened next year, this defect should be remedied.

SEWERAGE

The Sewage Works have functioned reasonably well during the year. On a few occasions the level of the river rose high enough to cause flooding of the lower part of the works, but no serious disablement occurred.

Ground water has been found gaining access to the sewers, particularly during the flooding of the lower part of the town. 101 blockages have been cleared by the Council's workmen.

To improve the efficiency of the plant, additional sludge drying beds, Humus tanks and storm water tanks are needed.

The following is a copy of the Public Analyst's report on a sample of sewage effluent:-

Outfall manhole from Humus Tanks - 15/11/55.

I hereby certify that I have examined the above mentioned sample with the following results:- (as parts per million)

Ammonia, Free.....	2.87
Ammonia, Albuminoid.....	2.13
Nitrites.....	0.20
Nitrates, as Nitric Nitrogen.....	21.36
Oxygen absorbed in four hours at 80 deg. F.....	17.012
Chlorides.....	83.0
Suspended solids.....	5.5.
Dissolved solids.....	726.5.
Total solids.....	732.0
pH value.....	7.2
<u>Incubator Closed Test:-</u>	
Oxygen absorbed in 3 mins. before incubation.....	5.809
" " after 5 days incubation.....	1.037
Colour after incubation.....	Unchanged.
Odour after incubation.....	None
Dissolved oxygen absorbed in five days.....	21.6
Copper.....	-
Impurity Figure.....	19.2

SEWERAGE (Cont)

McGowan's Figure..... -
 Percentage oxidation of the Nitrogen..... 59.8

Remarks:- The figure for suspended solids is very satisfactory, but that for the dissolved oxygen absorbed in five days slightly exceeds the limit of 20 parts per million laid down by the Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal.

(Signed) Arthur S. Carlos. B. Sc (Lond)
 Public Analyst.

REFUSE COLLECTION

The Refuse Service has continued to work smoothly. The salvage of materials such as iron, bras, lead, paper etc., from the refuse has made the sum of £74.7.0.

RODENT CONTROL

PREVALENCE OF INFESTATION Number of properties in the Local Authority's Area in which infestation was discovered.
Infested by Rats. Serious infestations of Mice.

Local Authority properties.	Nil	Nil
Dwelling houses.....	13	8
Business premises(non-agricultural)	2	1
Agricultural properties.....	Nil	Nil

MEASURES OF CONTROL BY LOCAL

<u>AUTHORITY.</u>	<u>Number of properties inspected.</u>		<u>Number of properties treated by Local Authority</u>
	<u>As a result of notification.</u>	<u>Other -wise</u>	

Local Authority properties....	Nil	4	Nil
Dwelling houses.....	8	294	20
Business premises(non-agricultural)	Nil	119	1
Agricultural properties.....	Nil	1	Nil

SECTION D
FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

<u>Premises.</u>	<u>Number on Register</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>
Factories in which no mechanical power is used.....	6	Nil
Factories in which mechanical power is used.....	36	14
TOTAL....	42	14

Number of cases in which defects were found:-

<u>Particulars.</u>	<u>Found.</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>	<u>Referred to H.M. Inspector</u>
Want of cleanliness.....	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary conveniences:-			
(a) insufficient.....	1	1	Nil
Other offences against the Act.....		N i l.	

OUTWORKERS

There were 39 outworkers employed during 1955. No infectious disease occurred during the year in any of the premises where the outworkers were employed.

SANITARY INSPECTORS' VISITS

Water Undertaking.....	181
Sewage Works and Sewers.....	25
Swimming Baths.....	76
Recreation Ground and Gardens, including Milldown and Allotments.....	58
Municipal Buildings, Council Yard, Mortuary, Market and Public Conveniences.....	81
Refuse Service including Tip.....	6
Council Houses.....	373
Infectious etc., diseases investigated and visits in connection therewith.....	3
Highways.....	127
Buildings Byelaws and Town and Country Planning.....	180
Food Premises, and Food including Ice Cream Premises and Dairies...	56
Petroleum Installations.....	20
Pest Control.....	2
Public Health Acts.....	188
Housing Acts.....	1022
Factories Acts.....	14
Other Visits not classified above.....	78

MORTUARY

The Damory Street Mortuary has been used on seven occasions during the year.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT-1948 (Amendment Act) 1951 - removal of persons in need of care and attention.

No action was taken under this Act during the year.

SECTION E SLAUGHTER HOUSE

The weight of meat condemned during the year:-

Offal	12977	lbs.
Condemned meat.....	2452	lbs
T.B. Offal.....	3087	lbs
T.B. Meat.....	7135	lbs.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part:-

	<u>Cattle.</u>	<u>Cows.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Sheep & Lambs.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>
Number killed.	976	752	112	1734	6

Number inspected.	976	752	112	1734	6
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All diseases except T.B. and Cysticerci

where carcasses condemned..... 4

Some part or organ was
condemned..... 470

120

888

Percentage of the
number inspected
affected with disease
other than
tuberculosis and
cysticerci.....

48%

15%

51%

Tuberculosis only.

Whole carcasses

condemned..... 3

8

-

-

SLAUGHTER HOUSE

	<u>Cattle.</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep and Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>
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Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.....	72	36	-	-	-
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Percentage of the number inspected infected with tuberculosis.....	7.6%	5.0%	-	-	-
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SECTION F

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD PREMISES.

Ice Cream Premises.

There were two more registrations than last year.
A total of 22 ice cream samples have been submitted during the year to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological reports.

Grade 1..... 20. Grade 11..... 2. Grade 111.... nil. Grade 1V.Nil

19 iced lolly and lolly cream samples were also submitted for bacteriological test and these all proved satisfactory.

<u>Provisonal Grade.</u>	<u>Time taken to reduce methylene blue</u>
1	$4\frac{1}{2}$ hours or more
2	$2\frac{1}{2}$ - 4 hours
3	$\frac{1}{2}$ - 2 hours
4.	0

Owing to the numerous factors governing the hygienic quality of ice cream, it is unwise to pay too much attention to the bacteriological results of any one sample. Judgment should be based rather on a series of samples. It is suggested that over a six monthly period, 50 per cent of a vendor's samples should fall into Grade 1. 80 per cent into Grades 1 or 2, not more than 20 per cent into Grade 3 and none into Grade 4.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS 1949

Licences issued.

Dealers Licences.....	1	Tuberculin tested.....	2
Supplementary Licences.....	5	Pasteurised.....	3
		Tuberculin tested and pasteurised.....	1

Food condemned during the year:-

Tinned peaches.	Total weight.....	9 lbs
Tinned apricots.	Total weight.....	6 lbs
Tinned pears.	Total weight.....	2 lbs.

Meat and fish condemned during the year:-

Tinned corned beef.....	13 lbs.
Tinned stewed steak.....	4 lbs
Tinned tongue.....	18 lbs
Tinned ham.....	9 lbs
Sausages.....	9 lbs
Meat pies.....	5 lbs
Pork.....	15 lbs
Beef.....	6 lbs
Mutton.....	40 lbs.

List of Food Premises

Hotels, Inns, Public Houses and Wine Merchants.....	22
Sweet Shops.....	13
Grocers shops.....	14
Cafes and Cafes with shops.....	12
Butchers and Cooked Meat shops.....	7
Fish merchants and Fried fish shops.....	4
Greengrocers and fruit shops.....	6
Confectioners and bread shops.....	4
Bakeries.....	3
Ice Cream premises.....	23

HOUSING

Council Houses.

Houses completed during the year..... 38

Houses commenced but still under construction at the
close of the year..... 21

Private Houses.

Number of private houses erected during the year..... 3

Under construction at the end of the year..... 1

SECTION G

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet fever..... 1
Pneumonia..... 1
Whooping cough.....12
Tuberculosis (Pulm.).. 2
Measles..... 1
Food Poisoning..... 2

Number of cases on Tuberculosis Register

31/13/55

Pulmonary.....15
Non-Pulmonary..... 3

Two new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year.

Food Poisoning

Two cases of food poisoning were notified during the year, the causes in both cases being unknown.

AGE INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

<u>YEAR.</u>	<u>Scarlet fever</u>	<u>Whooping Cough</u>	<u>Pneumonia</u>	<u>Tuberculosis.</u>	<u>Measles</u>	<u>Food Poisoning.</u>
Under 1						
1 - 2		4		1	1	
3 - 4		2				
5 - 9		6				
10- 14	1					
15- 24						
25 and over.			1	1		2



